

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 14 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A guide for stabilizing a saw blade, said guide comprising:

a guide block having a first polygonal shaped surface for engaging a surface of said saw blade and a second opposing surface;

a single, threaded shaft extending outwardly from a centerpoint of said second surface of said guide block, said threaded shaft having a first end rotatably engaging said guide block and a second end received in a mounting bracket of a saw mill;

C a securing nut threadably engaging an outer threaded surface of said threaded shaft and positioned between said mounting bracket and said guide block, said securing nut being rotatable with respect to said threaded shaft such that a surface of the securing nut engages the second surface of said guide block upon rotation into engagement therewith thereby rendering the threaded shaft nonrotatable in relation to the guide block.

2. (withdrawn) The guide of claim 1 wherein said guide block comprises:

a base plate having a top surface and a bottom surface; and

an insert disposed on said bottom surface of said base plate, said insert having an upper surface in engagement with said bottom surface of said base plate and a lower surface for engaging a surface of a saw blade.

3. (withdrawn) The guide of claim 2 further comprising one or more fasteners for securing said insert to said base plate.

4. (withdrawn) The guide of claim 3, wherein said one or more fasteners extend from the bottom surface of the base plate into an upper surface of said insert.

5. (withdrawn) The guide of claim 4, wherein said one or more fasteners pass through corresponding one or more openings in said base plate.

6. (withdrawn) The guide of claim 5, wherein said one or more fasteners are threaded fasteners and said insert includes one or more corresponding threaded opening for receiving said threaded fasteners.

7. (original) The guide of claim 1, wherein said guide block is bi-metallic, the metallic material of said bi-metallic guide block proximal to the first surface thereof being harder than the metallic material proximal to the second surface thereof.

8. (original) The guide of claim 7, wherein the metallic material proximal to the first surface thereof is chromium-carbide.

9. (original) The guide of claim 8, wherein the metallic material proximal to the first surface thereof is austenitic chromium-carbide.

10. (currently amended) A guide for stabilizing a saw blade, said guide comprising:

a base plate having a top surface and a polygonal shaped bottom surface;

a single threaded shaft extending outwardly from a centerpoint of said top surface of said

base plate, said threaded shaft having a first end rotatably engaging said base plate and a second end received in a mounting bracket of a saw mill;

an insert disposed on said bottom surface of said base plate; and

means for selectively non-rotatably engaging the base plate and threaded shaft.

11. (original) The guide of claim 10, wherein said insert is bi-metallic such that the metallic material of said bi-metallic insert proximal to a lower surface thereof is harder than the metallic material proximal to an upper surface thereof.

12. (original) The guide of claim 11, wherein the metallic material proximal to the lower surface thereof is chromium-carbide.

13. (withdrawn) The guide of claim 10 further comprising one or more fasteners extending through one or more corresponding openings in said base plate and into said upper surface of said insert for securing said insert to said base plate.

14. (currently amended) A unitary solid, bi-metallic block insert for a saw blade guide for stabilizing a saw blade comprising:

a first metallic material proximal to a first blade engaging surface thereof;

a second metallic material proximal to a second guide engaging surface, wherein said first metallic material is harder than said second metallic material; and

a ~~mixture~~ combination of said first metallic material and said second metallic material at a center region of said insert.

15. (previously presented) The insert of claim 14, wherein the first metallic material proximal to the first blade engaging surface thereof is austenitic chromium-carbide.

16. (previously presented) The insert of claim 15, wherein the second metallic material proximal to the second guide engaging surface thereof is carbon steel.

17. (previously presented) The insert of claim 14, wherein the second guide engaging surface of said bi-metallic block includes means for connecting said bi-metallic block to a base plate of the saw blade guide.

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) The insert of claim 17, wherein said connecting means includes one

or more threaded openings for receiving one or more corresponding threaded fasteners extending from a bottom surface of said base plate.

C1 concluded
